

May 15, 2003

## **INTEREST IN METH SUMMIT EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS**

BISMARCK – Interest in next week's meth summit in Fargo has far exceeded expectations, according to Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. The summit runs for three days, May 19-21<sup>st</sup>.

"We expected about 400 people to register, but at the registration deadline we had 500 people registered, and now have started a waiting list," Stenehjem said. "The response has been overwhelming. The summit has attracted a diverse range of professionals from both government organizations and private businesses across North Dakota, Minnesota and as far away as Saskatchewan and Manitoba."

The Attorney General and US Attorney Drew Wrigley will open the summit, which begins at 1:00 pm on Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Special Agent George Hood and Special Agent in Charge Richard Sanders, both from the US Drug Enforcement Agency will give the keynote address, and the first day closes with a general session presented by nationally renowned speaker, Dr. Michael Sise, Trauma Director at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego. Dr. Sise is a member of the San Diego County Methamphetamine Strike Force, and his medical career has placed him at the front lines of San Diego's drug war.

After a general session presented by Special Agent Chris Hoyt, US DEA, the second day continues with breakout sessions. These sessions, which are repeated on May 21<sup>st</sup>, address a variety of subjects to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn about the problems associated with methamphetamine from a different perspective other than their own field. "Individuals from many different fields have registered – from law enforcement officers, social workers and addiction counselors, to company executives, teachers and other professionals, and they have been enthusiastic about the opportunity to receive such specialized information," said Stenehjem.

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*A media room is available for interviews. Contact Liz Bocker at (701) 391-0050 to make arrangements during the summit.*